

The Chairman, Leonard Bertin, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
Wednesday,
February 6, 2002.

Present:	L. Bertin, member	C. Buchanan, member
	A. Done, member	K. Gauri, member
	D. House, member	N. Johnson, member
	D. Kasunic, alt member	D. Kuschinsky, member
	D. Pietron, member	J. Rodgers, member
	J. Shah, alt member	J. Ong, student
	S. Lu, student	M. Grusnick, staff
	M. McGinnis, staff	

Absent: S. Burt, alt member

ITEM B - APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2001

Buchanan moved to approve the minutes of December 5, 2001, and Gauri seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

ITEM C - VISITORS, DELEGATIONS AND GENERAL PUBLIC

Bob Berk, Chairperson of Troy Daze
Leslie Bardell, Disability Awareness Workshop
Mark Wiedelman and Ann Sliney - Parents of children with mental disabilities
Pauline Manetta, Troy Resident
Nancy Sura, Past Chairman of Disabilities Committee

ITEM D - NEW BUSINESS

Bob Berk started his presentation with a brief history of Troy Daze. He stated that the Troy Daze Committee is made up of 2 groups, (1) An advisory group and (2) Event Chairpersons, with the goal of bringing the people of Troy together for a family event. The Troy Daze Committee is open to suggestions from the Disability Committee on how to make this annual event more appealing for persons with disabilities.

There are 2 areas in which they would like the input of this Committee, (1) parking, and (2) getting around inside the fairgrounds itself. Berk ask for members of the Disabilities Committee to attend their meetings and discuss these items. The meetings are on the 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center, room 202. Bertin stated that he would try to attend and obtain a lay out of the grounds for this Committee to study and try to give some suggestions as to ease of getting around the grounds for the disabled. Pick up and drop off points from the parking lot and the tent area will be discussed.

Leslie Bardell is a member of the Oakland County Schools "Disabilities Awareness Workshop", and brought a video that gives information about the event. This workshop will be put on at each school in Troy for fourth graders so that they may become familiar with some of the difficulties that the disabled face each day. Bardell asked if members of the Committee might have a special idea to share with the students or if anyone would like to help at a hands on activity station at the workshop.

Mark Wiedelman and Ann Sliney attended the meeting to represent a group of parents of children with mental disabilities. They are asking the City of Troy to sponsor a summer camp program and to reduce the cost so that is affordable. They would like a 6 or 8-week program at a place with a pool facility and instructors for the mentally disabled.

Wiedelman ask for suggestions for Community outreach dollars, and the Committee responded with several suggestions of possible funding for this camp. Wiedelman also asked for a letter from this Committee demonstrating support for a camp of this kind.

Bertin suggested this Committee pass a resolution of support for this group of starting a camp for children with mental disabilities. Bertin made a motion that the Disabilities Committee ask the City for support in the expansion of recreational opportunities for a special needs summer camp. Johnson supported the motion. All voted in favor. Bertin also suggested that they find a name for their group for ease of identification. For any member that would like to keep in contact with these parents, please contact Mark Wiedelman, (248) 433-1500 or e-mail at mw@sjcap.net.

ITEM E - REGULAR BUSINESS

Bertin has received correspondence from the Senior Citizens Committee stating that they are joining in the Disabilities Committees resolve to ask the City to seek more federal funding on behalf of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens for participation in the Community Center.

ITEM F - OLD BUSINESS

Bertin introduced correspondence from Jack Nixon, who has personal mobility issues, about the lack of handicapped parking at Somerset Mall. Mr. Nixon has been in contact with James Gerety, General Manager at Somerset who wrote a letter suggesting that persons with disabilities can use the valet parking at no charge. It was pointed out that some vehicles are specially equipped for the disabled person and valet personnel are not trained to drive these vehicles. Johnson stated that she would like to see more parking at the center of the mall, that the parking is not evenly distributed between entrances.

Bertin stated that there is also a motorized scooter at the concierge's desk, but this is not near the door where one would enter the building. However, it was stated that a person could call ahead and have the scooter at the door.

In a review of the January 2002 joint meeting with City Council, Bertin stated that the meeting went well. He was seriously disappointed in the minutes with the first item of business with the discussion of the fee structure for the new Community Center. The minutes stated that Bertin said that a 10% discount for people with disabilities was not enough. Bertin believes he went a little further in that he had rationale for why it was not enough. Bertin felt that this one sentence did not adequately cover what the Committee was trying to get City Council to understand with regard to income levels and data that is available from the national origins of disabilities as well as the U.S. Census department regarding income guidelines. He stated that he can only hope that the members of Council that were not present have had the opportunity to watch the video so they know what was said. Bertin is disappointed that information was not reflected in the official record.

Kuschinsky made a motion to accept the January 2002 Minutes with City Council, and to forward Bertin's supporting data with the February Minutes. Johnson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

ITEM G - INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Gauri suggested that each member note ideas for the brochure for the Advisory Committee for Disabilities. This will give something to put in the rack at City Hall so that people can learn about the Committee.

Bertin encouraged our student representatives to become involved in or encourage others to become involved in "Courage First" the anti-drinking commercial made by high school students. There could be scholarship money available, and they have extended the deadline, so there is still time to become involved.

Sura reported that in March of this year, she would start a specialized camp for adaptive students at the Community Center daily from 10 am until 2 pm.

ITEM H - ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn by Kuschinsky and seconded by Done. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MG:mm